

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP
75 WALNUT STREET
MARY-D, PA 17952**

The Regular meeting of the Supervisors of Schuylkill Township was held immediately after the reorganization meeting on Monday, January 3rd, 2016 in the Municipal Building. Those present included Charles Fayash and Frank Fabrizio. The Pledge of the Allegiance was recited prior to the Reorganization meeting.

Charles Fayash made a motion to approve the December Minutes. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$269,874.77 total in bank accounts. Charles Fayash made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report pending audit. Second by Fabrizio. All approved.

Public comment on agenda items only -

Christine Verdier, Mary D, noticed from last December minutes to this year's minutes that the treasurer's report is down \$50,000. Verdier also wanted to mention that the maintenance budget was to be \$100,000 and the actual expenses for the department for this year came in at \$136,000, which is 1/3 over the budget. Another expense that was not included in the budget was the salt shed that is being constructed. Verdier understands that \$17,000 is to be given from the insurance company but the bid for the shed came in at \$47,000, which leaves another \$30,000 which was not included into the budget. Verdier also wanted to add that the Roadmaster's salary was not added in to the budget either. Verdier just wanted to let everyone know that the millage going up is coming due to the amount that is over budget. Verdier also wanted to mention to Fabrizio, who was appointed as the police liaison, that with taking Middleport's money, officers are to work a combined amount of 40 hours a week. The officers have been working at a combined amount of hours as low as 11, 12, 16 hours a week. Verdier mentioned that it may be time to advertise for additional officers if the ones that we do have can not put in the time that is required.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, stated he has not reviewed the budget so he is unaware of the "over budget" that was used in a comment but asked if the Board could clarify if they are or are not over budget. Benulis also stated that there was money budgeted for a truck that he thinks was not used. Benulis explained more of what a budget is for and its entitlement. Fayash did state that there was \$40,000, that was to be used for a truck, with the addition of \$100,000 for the maintenance department in the 2015 budget but is unaware where the additional \$40,000 had gone. Benulis also stated that he thinks everyone is aware that other costs have gone down including zoning costs. Benulis explained more on how money was saved on zoning.

Christine Verdier, Mary D, questioned where the salt shed funds will be pulled from. Fayash stated it will be pulled from the maintenance fund, which Verdier stated it that fund is the general fund. Fayash also mentioned he wants the system to have money broken down into where exactly money was spent. Verdier stated that it is broken down in very big terms on where and what the money was spent on.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, understands that the Roadmaster's salary is new but if the township would have the work contracted out, we would have been paying a lot more. Fayash stated yes it would be a lot more and also added that even the cost of the projects were more, they still saved the township money by doing it themselves. Benulis wanted to add that being over budget is something that they really need to watch and make sure that its not an entire budget that is over but just a certain area. Fayash explained how things are being ran differently from previous years with the maintenance department. Fayash also questioned Fabrizio on his approval of a spending limit and wanted to see if some details could be changed due to if an emergency would happen to one of the trucks during snowstorm, they cannot wait for the board to advertise for a meeting and approve parts 24 hours later, the roads need to be cleared within 48 hours before someone needs to be called to come in and clear them. Solicitor Baranko explained more of what can be changed.

Gary Feathers, Tuscarora, questioned if there would need to be special meetings during things like this. Feathers also questioned if this could be done by a simple phone call of getting 2 out of 3 approvals for parts, etc. Feathers had discussed more situations of the possibilities of going over the set amount. Solicitor Baranko stated that you have to deal with the circumstances case by case, and gave some recommendations on the situation. More discussion was made and Feathers mentioned that more discussion should be made amongst the Supervisors during executive session. Fabrizio questioned the bill for the chains for the township. Fayash stated he was unaware of the price for the chains and stated that it is better to purchase better ones than ones that break every snowstorm. Fayash apologized for not asking the amount before purchasing the chains but stated they are well worth the money.

Police Report –

Chief DiMarco stated there was a report for a scam activity in Tuscarora. 2 males are knocking on doors asking to see electric bills and flashing cards that say spark energy, but when asked to see the card they take the card back. The males are in a blue dodge caravan, no license plate number was given. One was a white male about 5'8" wearing a black leather coat and a beanie hat early 20s. Broadcast was sent out throughout the county that if anyone sees these males to contact 9-1-1. Fayash added that there was also a similar scenario going on in Brockton about a month ago. Fayash also stated that there were cameras on the property that was involving the situation. Chief DiMarco continued with the police report which included: assist Tamaqua police department; dog barking complaint on Valley St Brockton; trespassing complaint on Valley St in Brockton; phone assignment in Brockton; towed a vehicle on 209 that was left abandoned for more than 48 hours; another vehicle that was abandoned during a snowstorm was towed; traffic enforcement was conducted and citations were issued for speeding; police assist in Middleport with moving vehicles for snow emergency routes; fire report on Tuscarora Mountain-a vehicle was reported stolen from Tamaqua and was found in Schuylkill Township burned; speed enforcement was conducted along 209 in the township; harassment by communication occurred in Brockton over the phone; traffic citation was issued in Middleport; arrest warrant for felony burglary was served on David Hartranft-for an incident that occurred in Newkirk-he was committed to Schuylkill county prison with \$25,000 10% bail; speed enforcement was conducted on Washington St. in Middleport; civil complaint in Tuscarora; traffic hazard reported on Brockton Mountain Rd.; traffic complaint of more speeding through Brockton which has been given by Joe Leskin last month; parking tickets were issued in Middleport; disorderly conduct on 218 Chestnut St Tuscarora; fireworks complaint; assisted Tamaqua officers with apprehending a suspect who was breaking into the bar at Lafayette and Pine St and assisted until the suspect was in jail; received PFA notification from Tuscarora that has been put on file; hearings were attended for Sergeant Stanell who was off for 2 weeks with his twisted that mentioned at last meeting-the defendant was found guilty. Chief DiMarco stated that last month, Sergeant Stanell's ankle was rolled from an incident that had happened in Tamaqua and he did not work for 2 weeks and stated with Verdier's complaint for the hours, that with the agreement with Middleport is not 40 hours a week that it was to be up to 40 hours a week. Chief DiMarco feels that the officers are doing a great job here and feels that they are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, questioned the officer what is the length of time to wait for a call from a police officer. Chief DiMarco stated there is no answering machine that it could take a day or 2 for the messages to get to the officers. Chief DiMarco stated the scenarios of the com center and when messages would likely be received. Van Pelt stated that she made a phone call back in October to the township officers and no one returned her call. Chief DiMarco questioned what the call was in reference to and Van Pelt stated she would prefer to speak about the situation privately with Chief DiMarco.

Road master Report-

Cleaning up the drains and keeping the leaves out, there are not many left. Cut some trees down on Old 209 that were extremely hazardous, with the snow storms have been out salting and keeping the roads clear and as open as they can.

Solicitors Report-

Regarding the old business resolution that was tabled from last month regarding driveway fees. Solicitor Baranko had discussed other municipalities and their fees and what options there are for the fees. Solicitor Baranko stated that he is going to write up a final resolution draft to bring to the Supervisors for approval. Fayash suggested that we bounce to old business and re-table the issue until next month. Fayash made a motion to table 2016-6 driveway fees resolution until next month and they will have answers. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Zoning Report-

Paul Benulis stated that in the past month there has been 0 requests or inquiries.

Committee Reports

Council of Government- Committee did not meet

Recreation Committee- Committee did not meet

Tax Collection Committee- there were just enough people in attendance to do a quorum and bills and approved minutes were discussed.

Communications:

No communications.

Old Business

Resolution 2016-6 was already discussed and is tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Review and approve the variance request for Joseph & Brenda Denning. The zoning hearing has already been completed. Paul Benulis explained the property is on Sunny Dr and the home had burnt down and they are looking to put a garage on the vacant property. Benulis explained more on the details of the variance requests. Fayash made a motion to approve the variance for Joseph & Brenda Denning. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved.

Public Comment

Gary Feathers, Tuscarora, wanted to say thank you for cutting the trees going down the highway that it made a big difference.

Fayash made a motion to go into executive order.

Fayash made a motion to exit executive order to discuss the Roadmaster's spending limit of \$250 that was approved during the reorganization meeting. Some changes have been made and they follow: \$250 remains the limit for everything other than emergency parts for the trucks if something would break during a snowstorm. If an emergency would occur, the Roadmaster is to contact the other supervisors and let them know what needs to be fixed and how much it will cost so they are aware of the situation. Fayash made a motion to continue with this plan. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Chief DiMarco wanted to inform the supervisors that Peter Sandor will be leaving at the end of the month. Chief DiMarco would like to hire Christian DeAngelo as the fill in spot for the 3rd officer. Chief DiMarco stated he works in Tamaqua part-time and lives locally and is already trained. Chief DiMarco is hoping that the Board will hire him next month. Christian has all the uniform requirements and everything needed for the position except for the township patches.

Fayash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd Hosler.

Adjourned

Attest: Natasha Tyson